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AID(WS) 8 LIBYA

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FROM: Tripoli - VIA POUCH

ACTION: Secstate Unnumbered

DATE: November 24.

In response his request, I meet with Minister Agriculture his office November 23, accompanied by Counselor Silts purpose introducing him to Minister, and by ECON Counselor Neuser. Major topic was review of future status US techincal advisors to MINAG (REFTEL paragraph 5). Following principal points emerged:

1. Minister expressed sincere appreciation of work AID technicians Brown and Tileston. Brown and his assistants had supplied MINAG with many valuable reports and suggestions which, Minister said, had directly lead to increase in Libya's agricul ural output in past; Brown's main contribution had been assist MINAG with drafting legislation designed maintain agricultural population on land through price support and market stablization programs, especially for grain and olive oil.

2. Minister most anxious retain services Brown to continue advise him policy problems and help him work on implementation new legislation when approved by parliament. In this connection, Minister proud that draft legislation prepared by Brown such that he had had little difficulty getting through Council MINS. In fact, throne speech November 9 included statement on stablization agricultural incomes through appropriate legislation.

3. Minister said that he would soon submit to MIN Plan his requirements for foreign technicians and list would be headed by Brown. Minister said that part of jointly controlled funds,

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presumably SEDA, was available for agricultural purposes and that he felt these funds should be useable finance technical experts. Comment: Believe Minister has in mind that SEDA would contribute rather than finance full salaries; his statement probably motivated primarily by desire assure that funds reserved for agriculture be obligated soonest.

4. We left it that Minister would confer with MIN Plan, as would also ECON Counselor Heuser with Attiiqah, concerning methods Libya could finance all or part salaries future U.S. consultants.

Minister left no doubt our minds that he most interested obtain American technical consultants. Shall report further on methods financing and scope such services after proposed conversations with MIN Plan.

Also discussed with Minister possible desirability have MINAG look into latest results cloud-seeding experiments in various parts world, including especially U.S. We agreed that in country where crops so dependent on rainfall right time, would be worthwhile remain contact latest developments this field. Minister gratefully accepted my promise procure up-to-date U.S. material.

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